50th Anniversary

1902 – 1952

FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE

HAYS, KANSAS

The Story of Fort Hays State

published in connection with
the celebration of the
Fiftieth Anniversary
of its founding in 1902.

An Appreciation

by Charles M. Harger

An educational institution which has existed for a half century has established a fixed position in the educational world. It has a high standing in education and serves a particular clientele or it has developed a dynamic attitude in which it is constantly striving to expand its educational opportunities and to give to the community a larger cultural advancement. This second character is that of Fort Hays State. It began modestly as a sort of annex to a teachers college but soon broke away into its individual state. It is located in the center of a magnificent agricultural empire, some 200 miles square and covering half of the state of Kansas. It is doubtful if any other educational institution in America has exactly such an opportunity.

I was a member of the Board of Regents for some thirteen years, most of the time its chairman. That period extended over most of the depression years. We were early impressed with the opportunities that Fort Hays possessed. Regularly, in those depression days, we made out our biennial report asking for the improvements and the added expenditures that we thought were needed in order to develop the school as it should be. Regularly the Budget Department and the Governor cut down our figures as they did those other institutions to fit the lessened income which the state then possessed.

Agricultural areas like Western Kansas can support only a limited population. Its soil and its climate forbid breaking up the land into small farms as is done along the Atlantic seaboard. But prosperity has come to Western Kansas and the men who have been in charge of the institution have been persons with vision and ambition and have done wonders in its development. The area which was at first only agricultural is changing. The small towns have become, many of them, modern cities. Industries have come into Western Kansas. The vast gas and oil developments are changing part of its area. More small cities are building industries which give employment to their population and make them more or less self-supporting. In other words, Western Kansas is being stabilized into a definite picture of prosperity and the effect is being felt upon its only state educational institution here at Hays.

It means much to an area to have a cultural center of this sort. Its influence reaches out into every community. Its faculty is able to accomplish more and its students appreciate the importance of the school to their community. Fort Hays State has grown into a definite factor in the educational field of Kansas and of the Middle West. It stands high in its accomplishments, it is extending its influence, it is extending its attendance, and there is no reason why this advancement should not go on for years to come.

Some day in the next half century Fort Hays State will attain the same equipment in buildings, in campus, in faculty, in research, and in all educational activities equal to that of the older state institutions which had some 40 years advantage of it in growth.

These 50 years have demonstrated its fitness and its need for Western Kansas. Its graduates have gone out to fields of prominence in all parts of the country. They rank with those of any institution in the mid-west. Kansas is proud of Fort Hays State and it has reason to be for here has grown up an institution from the grass roots into a modern institution with every equipment needed for its accomplishments. But it is not at the end of its advancement. It has a wonderful outlook and Western Kansas has reason to be proud of it.

Messoge from the President:

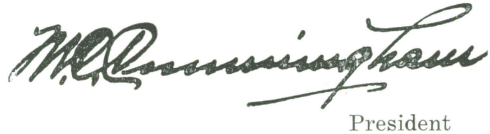
Fort Hays Kansas State College is proud to pay tribute, and to honor those stalwart pioneers, who saw the educational needs of the people of western Kansas, and had a vision of how these needs might be met by providing the opportunities for cultural living, development of talents, building of character and establishment of economic freedom. Those men and women who were inspired to seek the establishment of a great college on the western plains would today be most gratified to see the fulfillment of their dreams. From a modest beginning the college has grown in strength and in influence.

Much credit is due to those men who have had the responsibility of leadership as heads of the college. They have built wisely and well. They were men of vision, of determination, of high ideals, of courage and self-sacrifice. Each in his turn carried the torch, and today Fort Hays Kansas State College stands as a monument to those who met and conquered difficulties and vicissitudes on the western plains, that youth might find here the opportunities for a fuller, happier and more productive life.

It is difficult to measure the contribution made by our able, loyal and faithful faculty, whose devotion to the cause of education, and whose understanding and appreciation of the individual student has inspired the youth of Kansas, who have gone out in the past fifty years to serve in a world torn by conflicts.

Without the cooperation of alumni, whose love for their alma mater has been steadfast and abiding, the college could not have grown as it has during the last half century. Through the years the friends of the college have demonstrated a fine loyalty, and have contributed much to its progress and effectiveness.

To no one person or group of persons goes all the credit for the Fort Hays Kansas State College of today, but to everyone who has made his contribution, in whatever capacity, we give praise and thanks.



President

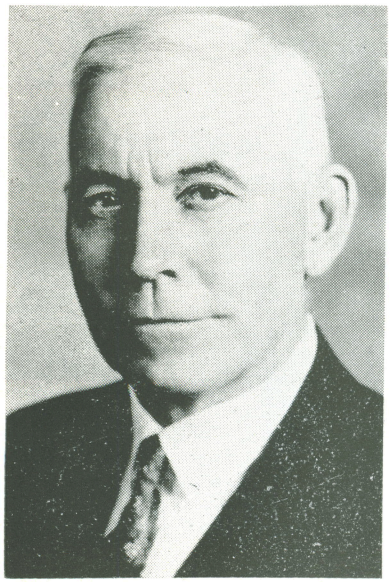
Administration.....

WILLIAM SAMUEL PICKEN

Born Dec. 16, 1862 at Quebec, Canada
A.B. Kansas State Normal School (Hays)
B.S. City College of New York
Principal of Schools, Dorrance, Kansas, 1897-90
Superintendent of Schools, Eureka, Kansas, 1890-94
Superintendent of Schools, Iola, Kansas, 1894-98
Instructor in History and Government, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, 1892-1902
Principal, Western Branch State Normal School, 1902-13
Educational missionary, Bombay, B.I., 1914-20
Instructor, Adelphi Academy, 1920-25
Died in 1925 in Brooklyn, N.Y.

WILLIAM ALEXANDER LEWIS

Born Oct. 12, 1876, on a farm near Dwight, Illinois
B.S. degree 1899, A.B. degree 1909, LL.D. degree 1915, all from Valparaiso University (Indiana)
Assistant Professor in Chemistry and Physics, State Teachers College, Warrensburg, Mo., 1901-03
Professor Chemistry, Central High School, Kansas City, Mo., 1903-06
Professor of Chemistry, Kansas City College of Pharmacy, 1905-06
Professor of Chemistry, State Teachers College, Kirksville, Mo., 1906-10
Professor of Agriculture and Director State Demonstration Farm, State Teachers College, Kirksville, Mo., 1910-12
Professor of Industrial Education and Director State Demonstration Farm, University of Utah, 1912-13
President, Fort Hays Kansas State College, 1913-33
Died at Hays, Kansas, Oct. 10, 1933



CLARENCE EDMUND RARICK

Born March 17, 1879, on a farm near Glen Elder, Kansas
A.B., 1904, Ed.D. 1928, Kansas Wesleyan University. Attended Colorado University and Kansas University in summer sessions
Superintendent of Schools, Plainville, Kansas, 1904-1907
County Superintendent of Rooks County, 1907-1911
Superintendent of Schools, Stockton, 1911-12
Superintendent of Schools, Osborne, 1912-19
Professor of Rural Education and Director of Extension, Kansas State Teachers' College, Hays, 1919-34
Acting President of Fort Hays Kansas State College, 1933-34
President, Fort Hays Kansas State College, 1934-41
Died August 1, 1941, at Hays, Kansas

LYMAN DWIGHT WOOSTER

Born July 15, 1884, at Greeley, Colo.
A.B., 1911, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia
Ph.M., 1919, University of Wisconsin
Ph.D., 1936, Stanford University
Instructor in Science, Parsons High School, 1906-07
Instructor in Science, Western Kansas Normal School
Instructor in Science, Kansas City, Kansas, High School, 1911-12
Professor of Biological Science, Kansas State Teachers College, Hays, 1912-29
Professor of Zoology, Fort Hays Kansas State College, 1929-38
Dean of the College, Fort Hays Kansas State College, 1928-41
President, Fort Hays Kansas State College, 1941-49
President Emeritus, Fort Hays, Kansas State College, 1949

Buildings.....

The "Official Opening Day" picture June 23, 1902, with Mr. Picken and Miss Keller inset.

On that historic morning of June 23, 1902, classes were opened in what had once been the hospital building at the old Fort Hays. The guard house had been converted into a gymnasuim and two of the houses on officers' row had been saved to house the faculty. The other buildings were being sold and moved away for various uses.

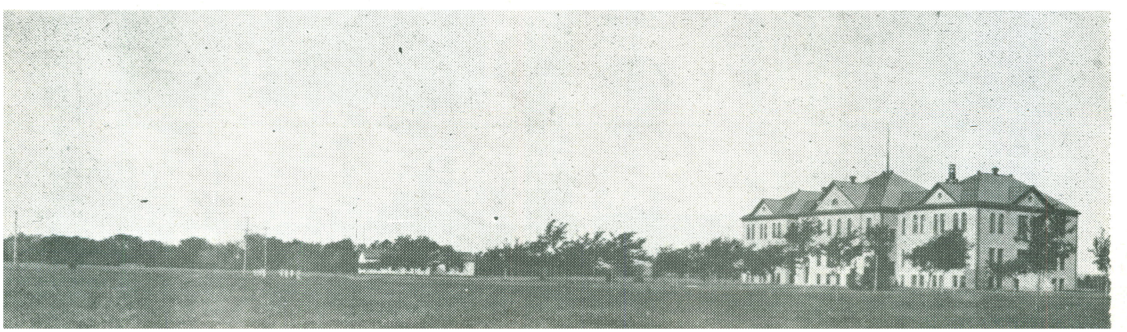
Two years later, the middle section of the first permanent building, known now as "Picken Hall" was ready for occupancy. It had been built at a cost of $20,000. The building was called "Academic Hall." It was not until 1910 that it was named for William S. Picken, the first principal of the school.

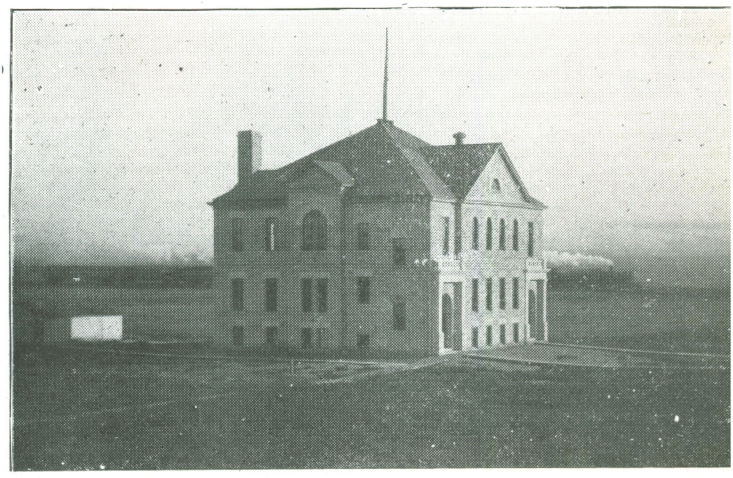
Professor Picken had great dreams for the college he was heading and he worked tirelessly for the completion of its physical plant. The Gymnasium, now used as a student social center, was completed in 1906 at a cost of $15,000. Library facilities were moved to this building in 1917.

Relentlessly, Professor Picken pursued his goals. Two wings were added to Academic Hall in 1908, each costing $20,000, the same amount spent on the center section when it was built four years earlier. The Industrial Building was added in 1912, at a cost of $40,000. In that era, of course, building costs were ridiculously low and the three fine buildings had cost the state a total of $115,000, considerably under the contract price for the single Residence Hall unit now under construction on the campus.

However, World War I brought an end to this administrator's paradise, and the buildings erected during the presidency of William A. Lewis were far more costly, though not by present standards.

A panoramic view of the campus just before





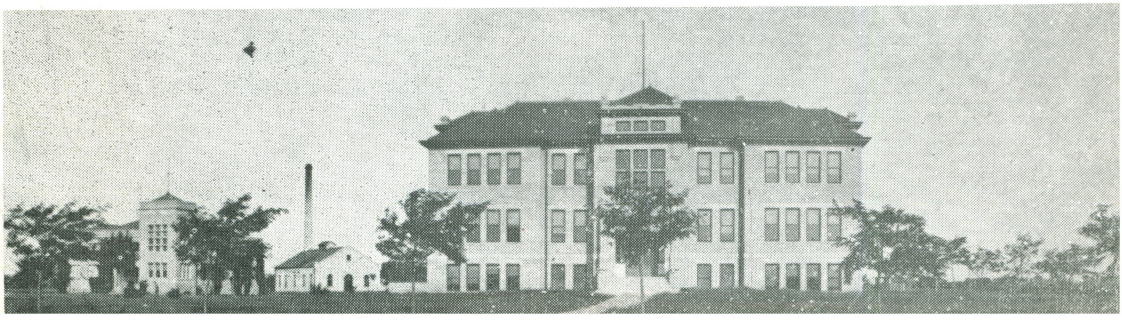
The middle section of Picken Hall, as it stood ready for occupancy in 1904.

Sheridan Coliseum, known at the time as the "Convention Hall of Western Kansas," was built in 1917. Six years later, Custer Hall and Cody Commons were built to satisfy a need for college housing for women and a dining hall under college supervision. Forsyth Library was built in 1926 and the Science Building in 1929.

During the depression years, there was no major building at the college, though Lewis Field was begun with the rehabilitaiton of abandoned CCC barracks to provide low-cost housing for scholarship students. The Lewis Field Stadium was built in 19— with W.P.A. labor. The dormitory rooms in the stadium were included to meet the still-urgent need for housing for men. When World War II began, Residence Hall, dormitory for men, had been begun, and its completion was rushed to take care of the first consignment of men who trained on the campus. When the war was over, the college hurried to provide housing for veterans and their families and the Lewis Field housing area sprang up almost overnight. Another surplus building was utilized for a men's gymnasium, to take care of the activities crowded out of Sheridan Coliseum.

The two buildings, officially opened today, were the results of long-time planning and promotion on the part of college officials. Several appropriations were necessary to complete the projects, as building costs skyrocketed. The beautiful new wing to Custer Hall and the spacious Applied Arts Building are agreed to be well worth the long waiting and the numerous frustations involved in their building. When the new Residence Hall for men now under construction is completed, Fort Hays State College will have much to show for its fifty years of building.

Sheridan Coliseum was built in 1915.



Faculty.....

The faculty 1906-1907—Front row, left to right: C. A. Shively, Annette Foster, W. S. Picken, Anna Keller, E. B. Matthew; back row: Jennie Nichles, Claude Bice, Harry Kent, Lulu Bice, John Bird.

A college can be no better than its faculty and Fort Hays Kansas State College has been fortunate in the devotion of so many faculty members who have given so freely of their energy and talents to the youth of Western Kansas.

Beginning with Professor Picken and Miss Keller, who comprised the faculty when the college opened its doors 50 years ago, 434 different faculty members have been employed. Fifteen of these have been on the faculty for at least 25 years and have been honored by their colleagues for this quarter-century of service. This group includes C. H. Brooks, T. W. Wells, F. B. Streeter, James Rouse, Ed Davis, Elizabeth Agnew, Fred W. Albertson, L. D. Wooster, R. L. Parker, E. E. Collier, Roy Rankin, James Start, Lucille Felten, C. F. Wiest, and Modesto Jacobini.

The traditional Commencement processional finds the faculty in its most dignified role.

A group nearly as large is listed on the Memorial Tablet in Forsyth Library—"To Those Who Toiling Fell," it says, with these names below—Charles A. Shively, 1905-27; James Paul Jones, Sept.-Oct. 1928; Ann Pricilla Holmes, 1927-29; Charles H. Landrum, 1924-32; William A. Lewis, 1913-33; Henry Edward Malloy, 1914-37; Clarence Edmund Rarick, 1919-41; Leona Robl, 1944-47; Robert L. Parker, 1914-49; Leo C. Thomas, 1942-49; Arthur W. Barton, 1929-49; Roy Rankin, 1918-50; and Charles F. Wiest, 1920-51.

All of these names bring to former students memories of the personal contact Fort Hays State students are able to have with their faculty members—the word of encouragement, the point explained in that moment after class, the understanding of a personal problem, the friendly greeting on the campus.

The trend today is, of course, toward more specialization among faculty members, more doctors' degrees, but the Fort Hays State tradition of faculty-student friendship is still strong.

Miss Elizabeth Agnew, now dean emeritus is shown at her desk during her "working years."

Curricula.....

The first curriculum at what was known as the Fort Hays Auxiliary Normal School consisted of the upper two years of secondary school plus several normal school subjects, such as methods and reviews of common courses, including spelling, pronunciation, declamation, etymology, and essay. Completion of the course gave the student what was known as a "one-year state certificate" to teach in the elementary schools of Kansas.

For the first four years, every student entering the Normal School was required by law to sign the following statement: "I hereby declare that my purpose in entering the State Normal School is to fit myself to teach in the schools of Kansas, and I solemnly agree, after leaving the same, to report to the Principal of the Faculty semi-annually, for three years, my location and occupation."

In the first schedule of classes, Principal Picken taught a full load as well as administering the college. He handled all of the duties of a registrar, business manager, dean, etc. The first catalogue listed 19 regular courses, which seems an exceedingly humble beginning for the present day curriculum, which consists of 743 regular courses.

Step by step, the offerings of the college were expanded. In 1906, it was first authorized to grant Life Certificates. In 1910, the bachelors degree was added, known then as the "A.B. in education," but changed three years later to "B.S. in education."

The first Bachelor of Music degree was offered in 1921.

The course of study adopted is outlined below:

FIRST YEAR.

A.

1. Arithmetic.
2. Drawing.
3. Elocution.
4. Geography, Physical and Political. Declamation.

B.

5. Algebra.
6. Botany.
7. English.
8. General History. Methods, Common Subjects.
9. Spelling.

SECOND YEAR.

C.

9. Bookkeeping and Penmanship*.
10. Rhetoric.
11. School Law and Management.
12. American History and Constitution.
13. Vocal Music.* Pronunciation.

D.

14. Geometry.
15. Literature.
16. Methods.*
17. Physics.*
18. Physiology.*
19. Psychology.* Essay.

*Half-term subjects.

Reproduced from the first college catalog is this course of study for students of 1902.

The fall term will open with the following program

BEGIN A. M.	MR. PICKEN Room 2	MISS KELLER Room 1	* Room 3
8:10	Arithmetic, A.	Physiology, D	United States History, (special).
8:55	Geometry, D.	English, B.	Constitution (special).
9:35	RECESS		
9:45	GENERAL EXERCISES.		
	Orthoepy.	Spelling, B	Spelling (special)
10:20	General History, B.	Physiology (special).	Arithmetic (Special)
11:05	School Law and Management, C.	Geography, A.	Geography (special).
11:50	United States Hist. and Constitution, C.	Bookkeeping (special).	

*Teacher to be supplied.

Another page in the 1902 college catalog shows the sharp contrast between early offerings and the vast curriculum available to present-day students.

The regular fall term of the school opens Tuesday, September 2.

For printed matter and further information address,

WILLIAM S. PICKEN, Principal,

Hays City, Kansas.

One of the most important steps occurred in 1929 when the "liberal arts and science" degrees of A.B. and B.S. were authorized. At the same time, arrangements were made with the medical, engineering, and law schools in Kansas by which what was then Kansas State Teachers College at Hays would give the "pre" curricula in these professional fields.

The first master's degree (M.S.) was authorized in 1929, at which time a Graduate Council was established, which set up the standards, rules, and regulations for graduate work.

Six different names for the college have appeared on catalogues at various times, but only four of them were official and were used for any length of time. The first official name, assigned in 1903, was "Western Branch Normal School." In 1914, the name was changed to Fort Hays Kan- Normal School. In 1923, its title became Kansas State Teachers College of Hays; and in 1931, shortly after the expansion of the curriculum to include liberal arts and science degrees, it was changed to Fort Hays Kansas State College.

Student Body.....

The story of the enrollment growth at Fort Hays State College is written in the economic progress of the area. In the early years, when legislative appropriations were directly governed by the hard cold fact of an enrollment figure, college officials worked hard at bringing in anybody who might conceivably be counted, number-wise.

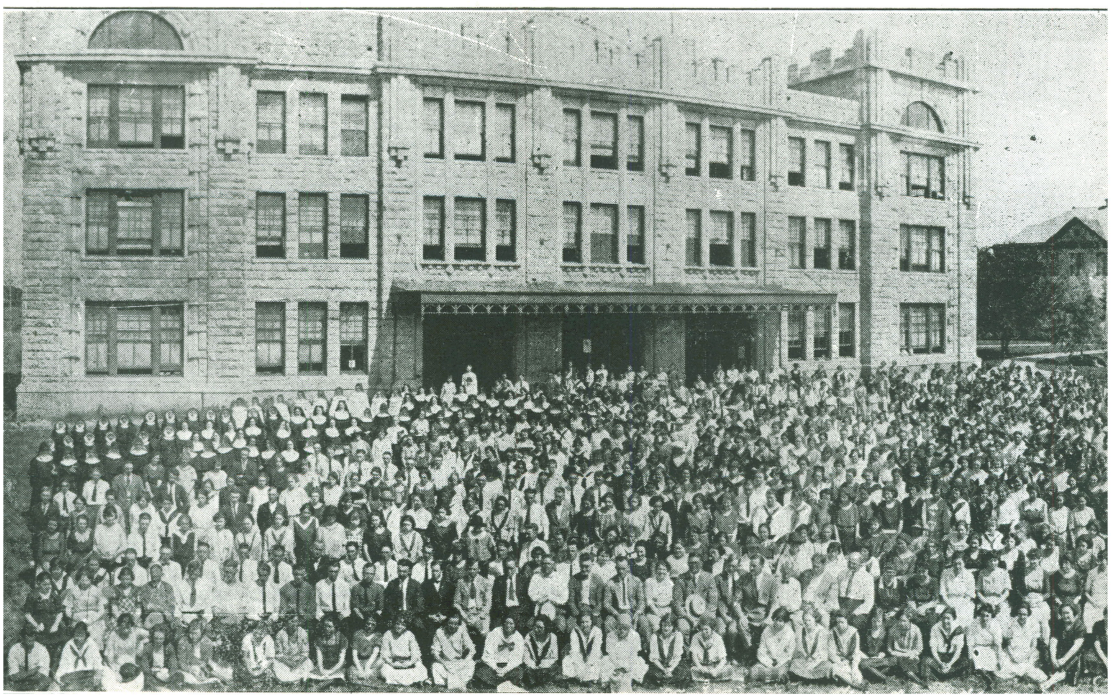
As the college foundations became more stable, however, it has been possible for officials to point proudly, without subterfuge, to the steady increase in the numbers of students.

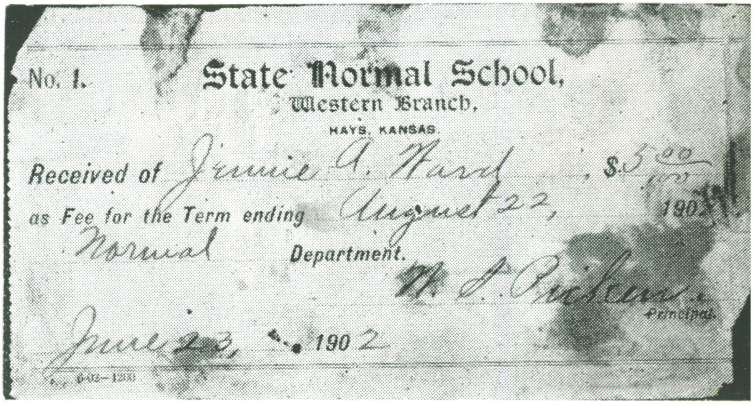
In the face of national decreases in enrollment, Fort Hays State is justifiably proud of the fact that the 1952 fall enrollment is the largest ever to be registered at the college for a regular term. The group of 1,103 students has surpassed the previous record of 1,094, set in 1940, just before the ravages of World War II began taking toll in enrollment.

This new enrollment record is particularly significant in view of the fact that it has come under the handicap of continuously threatening international crisis which has chopped annoyingly at enrollment the past few years.

Of course, the real record is still held by that memorable summer session in 1923 when nearly every school teacher in Western Kansas was required to attend summer school and 1,379 of them enrolled at Fort Hays State.

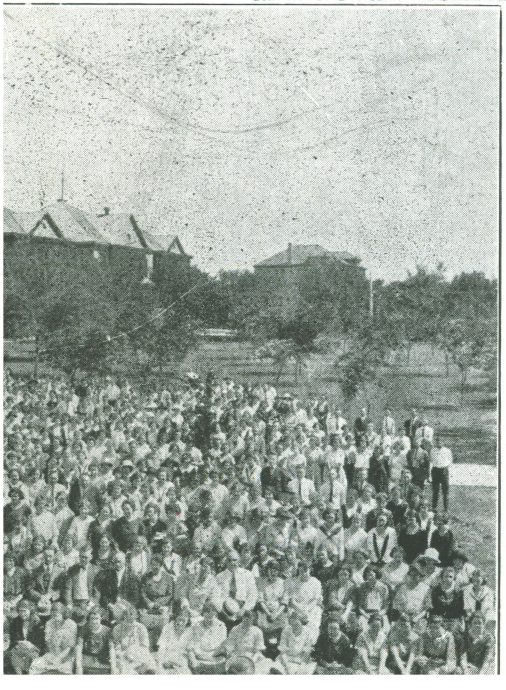
The future is, of course, unpredictable. In preparation for normalcy, however, the college is steadily expanding its services, seeking constantly to find new areas to justify its claim to its position as the educational center of western Kansas.



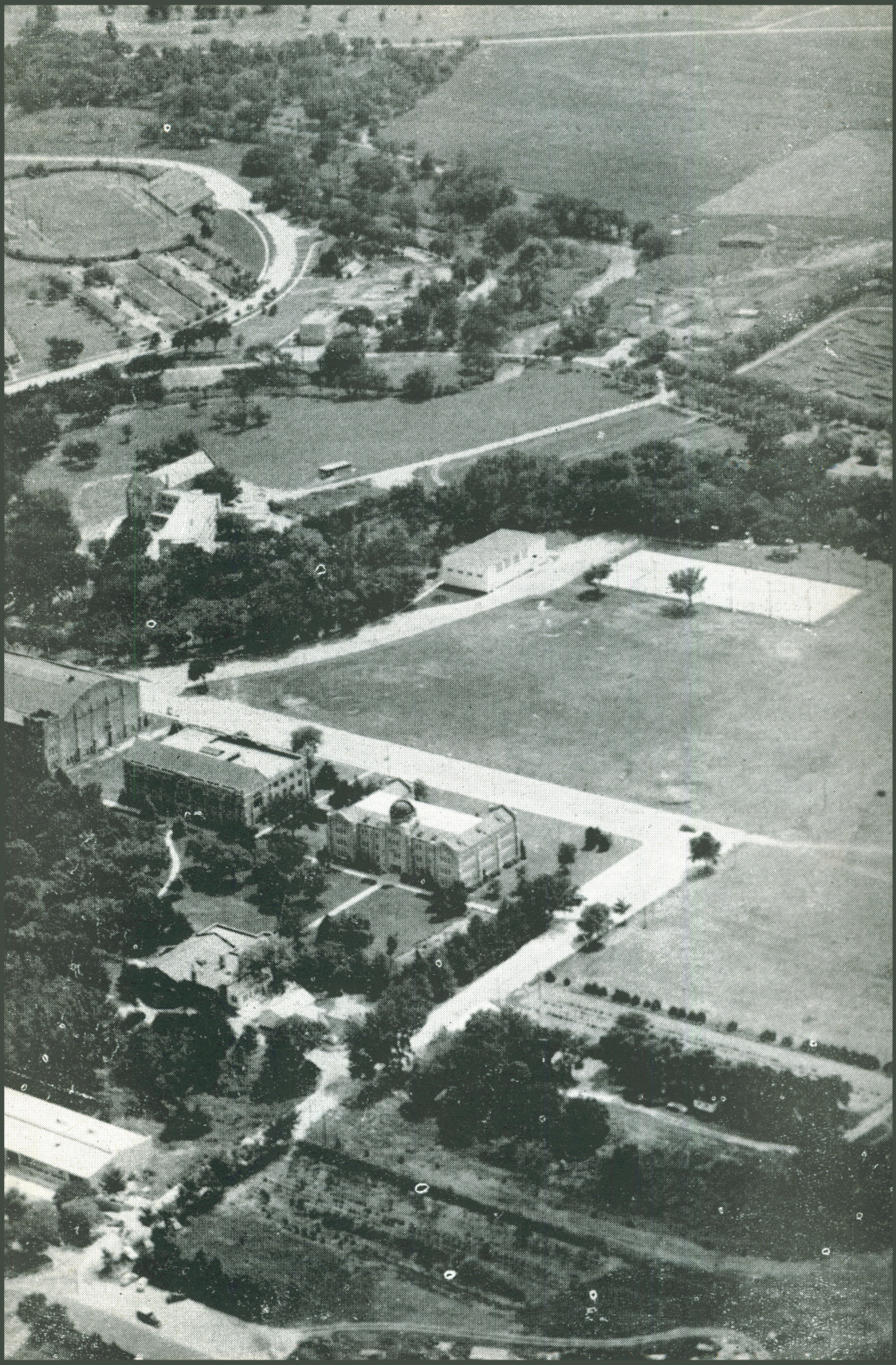

No. 1. State Normal School,
Western Branch,
HAYS, KANSAS.
Received of Jennie A. Ward, $5.00
as Fee for the Term ending August 22, 1902
Normal Department.
W. J. Picken, Principal.
June 23, 1902

Enrollment receipt Number One is still in the possession of Mrs. Jennie Ward Philip, Hays.

Summer session students and Normal Institute enrollees gathered for this picture in 1902.



The summer session of 1923 set an enrollment record which still stands.



Social Life.....

Early-day social life at the old Western Branch of the State Normal School was centered about Big Creek, which was, in those days, the center, rather than the boundary, of campus life. Picnics and boating during the warmer months gave way to skating in the winter. These activities were largely unorganized and informal. Mrs. Picken, whose natural grace belied the energy she applied to projects dear to her heart, supervised the social program for the students and was tireless in their behalf.

When the students were forced indoors, they turned to their "literary societies" for recreation. The very first year of the college, the "Literati" was formed, followed by the "Lyceum" in 1903. Students who could not get enough debating in the literary societies formed the Delphian Debate Club in 1910.

With the appointment of Miss Elizabeth Agnew as the first Dean of Women, an organized recreational and social program was begun, with the Gymnasium as its center. Dances under college sponsorship were introduced and dancing became the most popular social pastime. It was during the years of World War I that Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., and Newman Club were organized.

The year 1925 saw the establishment on this campus of two national sororities, Delta Sigma Epsilon on October 2, and Sigma Sigma Sigma on November 12. On January 23 of the following year, Sigma Tau Gamma, the first national fraternity, was inaugurated.

The combination of professional interests with social activity has been evidenced in the establishment in the last two decades of numerous specialized interest clubs and honorary organizations.

Skating on Big Creek was a popular pastime.

A debating club posed for this picture in 1913.

The "500 enrolled" picnic was a gay event in 1913.

Social dancing has for many years been the favorite recreation of Fort Hays Staters.

Music.....

A concert was presented on the campus by Rosa Ponselle in the 1920's. Left to right, the photo shows President W. A. Lewis, Mr. Malloy, Miss Ponselle, and other members of her party.

Music has always been an important part of the lives of Fort Hays State College students. From the earliest beginnings, group singing was a spontaneous outlet for enthusiasm and high spirits. Choruses, bands, and orchestras were formed in early years, but it took the genius of Henry Edward Malloy to make Hays a music center for all of Western Kansas.

Mr. Malloy joined the staff of what was the Kansas State Teachers' College in 1913 and immediately began the pursuit of his goal of "Singing Western Kansas into Tune." The first big Music Festival Week was held in May, 1919. A chorus of 500 voices sang Handel's Messiah on the Sunday evenings which began and ended the week. Until Mr. Malloy's death in 1938 the warmth and vigor of his personality and his talent for musical direction were felt throughout the area.

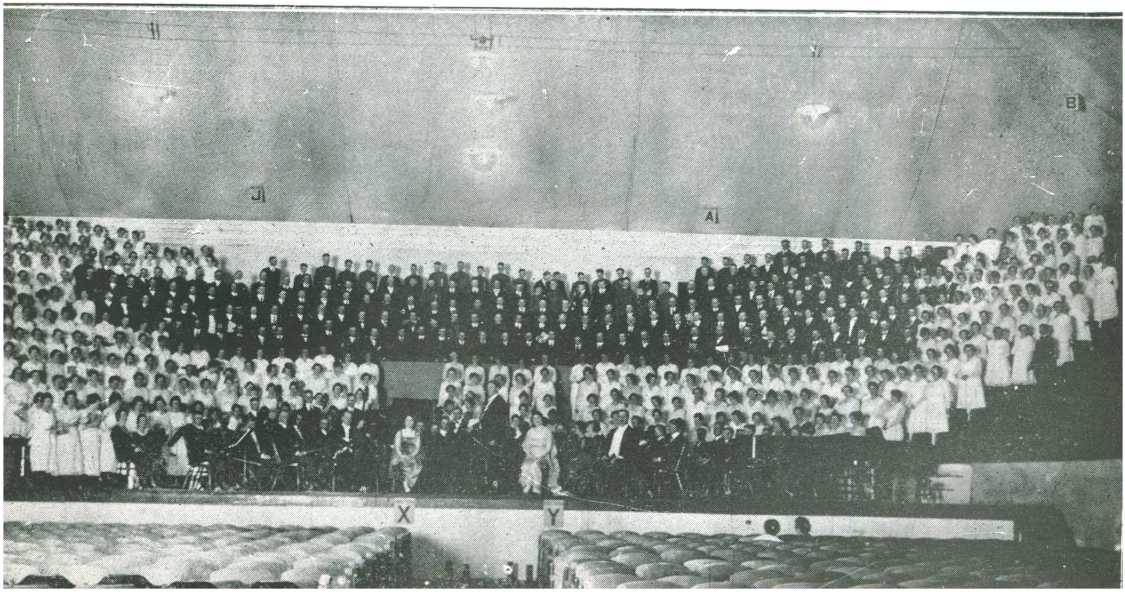
The music event which stands alone as the highlight of many outstanding musical performances on the campus was Madam Schuman-Heink's concert here in May, 1922. Western Kansans flocked into Hays by the thousands and when the greatest contralto of all time appeared, her audience had packed the Coliseum and many of the overflow crowd were seated on the platform, within touching distance of the prima donna.

The first musical production the college attempted was "The Mikado," a highlight of the 1909-1910 term. It was directed by C. A. Shively, who directed the chapel singing and any other musical activities until a regular music teacher was employed in 1912.

The singing of "The Messiah," "The Elijah," or "The Creation" has become traditional at Fort Hays State. Other outstanding musical productions presented by the music department include "Faust," "Aida," "The Chocolate Soldier," "Lucia di Lammermore," and "Martha."

Talent has always been plentiful among our students—vocalists like Hazel Hayes, Valerie Lamoree, Martha Wright, Keith Forney, Carl Dewes, Ida Marie Wickizer, Chrystabelle Bryan; Max Hughes at the piano; Donald Hemphill with his violin—these and many others are etched in the memories of Fort Hays State music lovers.

One of Henry Edward Malloy's first musical productions (1914) is shown at the right with one of his biggest (1919) pictured below.



Athletics.....

The first athletic team was a girls' basketball team in the summer of 1902.

The first football team was organized in the fall of 1902.

Fort Hays athletic teams are as old as the college itself. The very first football season, a team was organized from the ranks of the thirteen men enrolled. Fred Lindley, now of San Diego, California, was both player and coach. The first game was played against a Hays town team, with the game's football as the winner's prize. The contest ended in a scoreless tie, so another was scheduled. This time the Fort Hays Normal team was victorious.

A baseball team was also organized that first team. For the next few years, a faculty member named Harry Kent coached all of the athletic teams and also played on them.

Dr. Claude F. Bice, who still lives in Hays, was the first athletic coach employed as such by the college. Later ones included S. W. Cunningham; Ira Van Cleve, a graduate of the Springfield, Massachusetts YMCA college; Bunt Speer, now of Manhattan; A. J. Robertson, later a successful coach for many years at Bradley university; Rook Woodward, now in the insurance business in Columbus, Ohio; Bill Weidlein; Frank Mandeville; Harold Schmidt; Andy Schoeppel, now United States Senator from Kansas; Jack Riley, now director of athletics at the Hill School in Pennsylvania; Paul Gross, present director of Tiger atheltics; Jim Yeager; Paul Waldorf; Bill Bearley; and the current staff of Ralph Huffman, Cade Suran, and Alex Francis.

Tiger athletic fortunes have risen and fallen like the tide during the past fifty years. The first conference championship football teams were in 1917 and 1921, when the Tigers won the title in what was then the Kansas conference, including all of the colleges in Kansas except Kansas University, Kansas State College, and Haskell Institute. Later championships in the Central Intercollegiate Conference were in 1934 under Jack Riley; a share in a three-way tie in 1935 under Jim Yeager; and another undisputed title under Paul Waldorf in 1936.

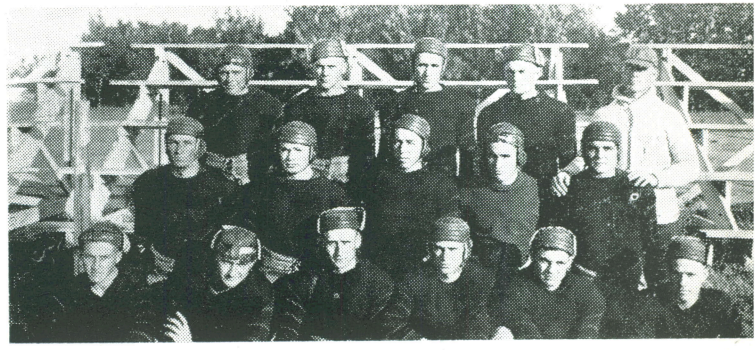
The first basketball championship at Fort Hays State was a co-title, shared with Pittsburg in 1937 under Paul Gross. An undisputed title was won in 1950 by Cade Suran's team.

No track championships were won until 1947, when the Tigers were undisputed champions of the CIC. They shared the title with Emporia in 1948 and won it alone again in 1952. Alex Francis has been the Tiger track coach during these years.

Many thrilling chapters in Tiger athletic history have been written during the past half century. Down through the years names like Ralph Archer, Rex Welty, John Byrd, Martin Peterson, Busch Gross, Cocky Sexton, Dennis McKee, Ralph Huffman, Rich Staab, Chet Mitchell, Les Pelzel, Jack Hague, and others, have made a spot for themselves in the hearts of Tiger fans.

Fort Hays State's First Championship Athletic Teams

Football—1917



Basketball—1937

Track—1947

Adversities.....

Fort Hays Kansas State College has shared with the nation the adversities of two World Wars and a crippling economic depression. One additional blow, the flash flood of 1951, she faced alone. Even today, the current unrest of students due to the uncertainty of the international situation is hampering normal progress.

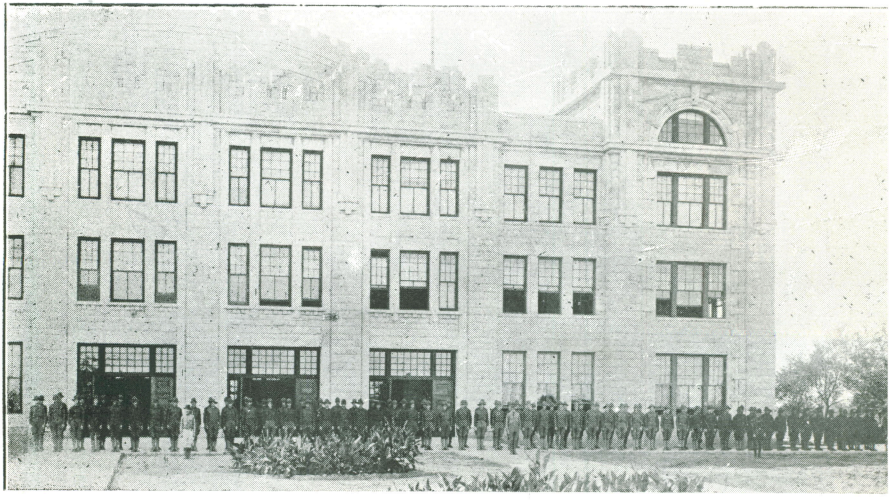
Both World Wars depleted the ranks of regular men students on the campus, but brought in their stead groups of army trainees. The flu epidemic during the last few months of World War I took the lives of many students.

The depression proved, in its way, a boon to the college. Through a plan of work scholarships for outstanding high school students in Western Kansas, many young persons were provided a college education who would have been unable to receive one otherwise. It is from this group that some of Fort Hays State's most illustrious alumni have come.

The 1951 flood provided a much different type of menace. It struck without warning and was gone before many of us recovered from our initial daze. Renovation and repair was begun immediately and in a few short months, the physical damage done by the water was almost completely erased. In this, as in previous adversities, the true strength of Fort Hays State's students, its faculty, and its constituency was gloriously revealed.

The barracks at Lewis Field were the center of nearly everything that was original and lively during the dark days of the depression of the 1930's.

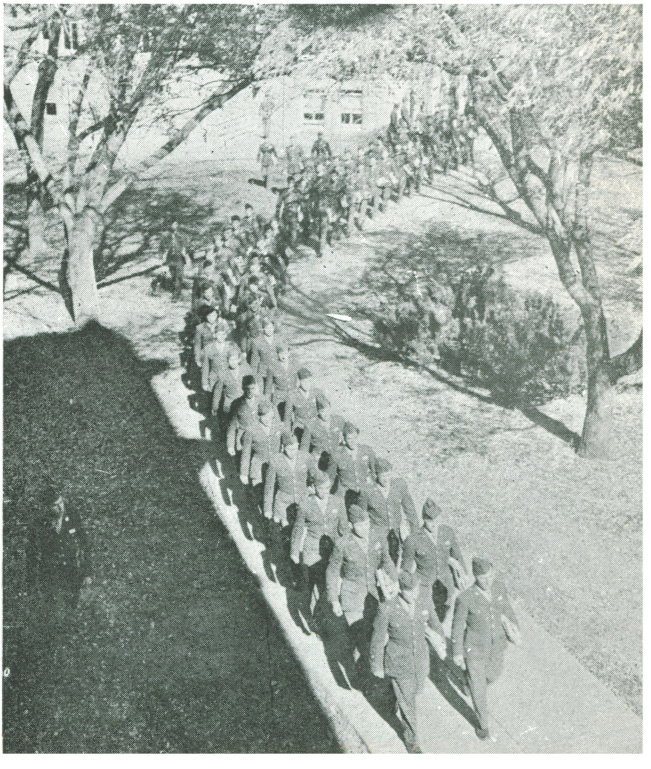
The reflection of Picken Hall's columns in the the flood waters of 1951 was a thing of beauty which went largely unnoticed.



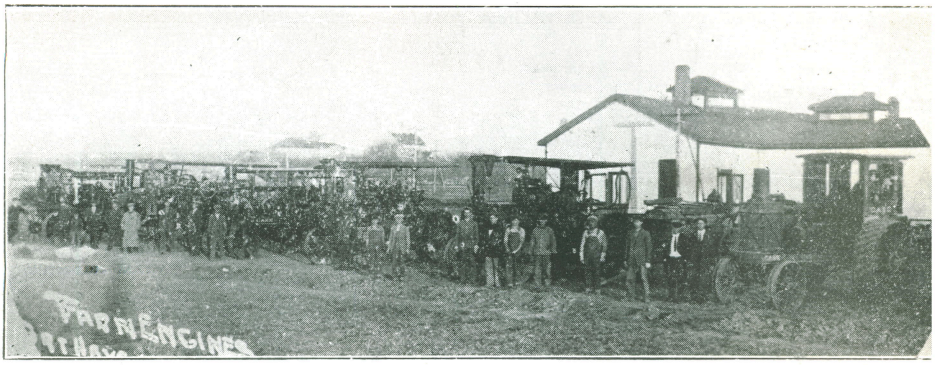
Two wars brought army trainees to the Fort Hays State campus in exchange for the many men it took away.

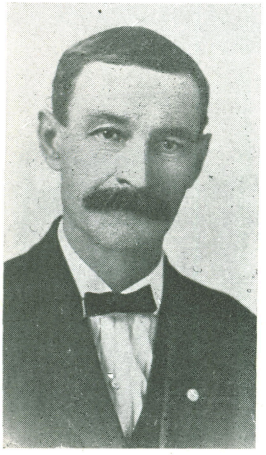
Pictured above is the student army training corps of World War I.

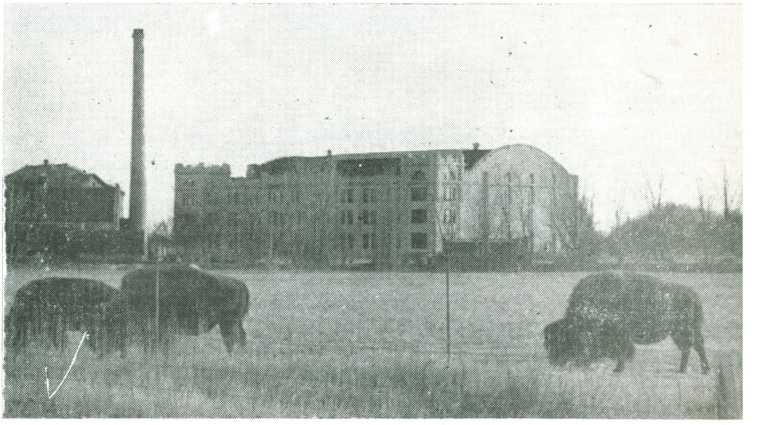
At the right are army aviation trainees of World War II.



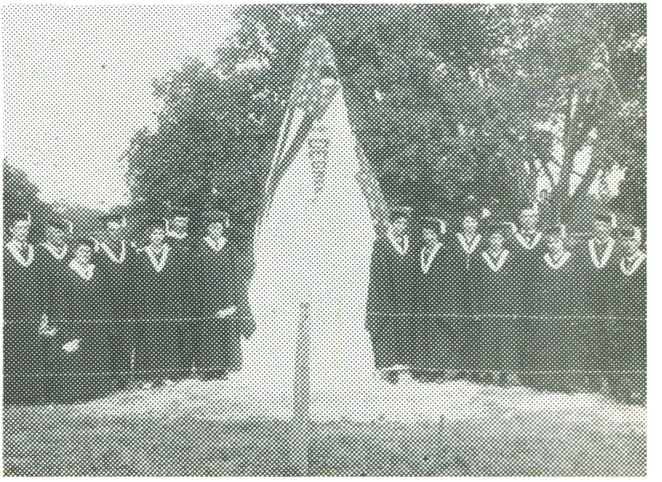
Memories.....


FARM ENGINES

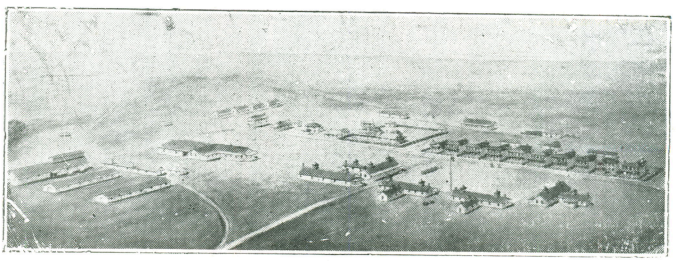




FORT HAYS



Landmarks in the History of Fort Hays State



Old Fort Hays

1806—Zebulon Pike crossed this region and reported it incapable of cultivation or habitation by civilized man.

1867—Fort Hays relocated south from Hays across Big Creek on June 23.

1867—Hays City established before the railroad reached that point.

1867—Kansas Pacific Railroad reached Hays.

1879—Martin Allen introduced idea to State Horticultural Society that military reservation would be ideal "For the endowment thereon of a school and experiment station for the promotion of Agriculture, Horticulture, and Forestry."

1889—Fort Hays abandoned as military post.

1900—Resolution introduced in U. S. Senate regarding transfer of the land. Passed and signed by President McKinley on March 28, 1900. Charles Curtis had much to do with getting it through.

1901—On January 16 Representative John Schlyer introduced Resolution No. 1, in the Kansas legislature accepting the abandoned military reservation for the purposes indicated. Passed by both houses and signed by the governor on February 7, 1901.

1901—On February 26 legislature passed the bill establishing the Normal School and the Agricultural Experiment Station and appropriating funds for the same. On March 1, the law became effective on publication in the official state paper.

1902—William S. Picken appointed Principal in February.

1902—June 23, First day of school of Western Branch State Normal School. Curriculum for first two years: two years of "Normal Course" (upper two years of secondary work plus methods courses, etc.)

1902—First literary society (Literati) organized. 1903-04 second literary society (Lyceum) organized.

1902—First athletic team—girls' basketball, summer, 1902. First men's team—football, fall of 1902.

1904—Completion of middle section of Picken Hall—the first building constructed specifically for the college. The school was then moved from the old fort grounds and buildings to the present location.

1905—The first play: "The Merchant of Venice."

1905—Young Men's Debating Club organized on Oct. 7, 1905.

1906—Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. organized in January, 1906.

1906—Name on catalogue—Western State Normal School. The word Branch was left out.

1908—First issue of The Leader, March 18, 1908.

1909—The first musical production: "The Mikado."

1911—Eight years of work offered—four of secondary and four of college. First authorization of a degree (A.B. in Education).

1913—William S. Picken resigned as principal, effective Sept. 1.
William A. Lewis appointed president.

1913—First student government in the form of Student Assembly officers.
First student council in 1927-28.

1914—First issue of the school annual, The Reveille.

1914—Name changed to Fort Hays Kansas Normal School and title of head of institution changed from principal to president.

1915—School officially made independent of State Normal at Emporia.

1916—Newman Club organized.

1917—First football championship.

1917—Coliseum completed and occupied.

1919—First big "Music Festival Week," May 4-11, under the direction of Henry Edward Malloy. Chorus of 500 sang The Messiah on Sunday evenings, May 4 and 11.

1922—Mme. Schumann-Heink gave concert in Coliseum.

1922—Name changed to Kansas State Teachers College of Hays.

1927—First Student Council.

1929—First authorization of Liberal Arts degrees (A.B. and B.S.) Name changed to Fort Hays Kansas State College.

1930—First authorization of Master's degree.

1933—President W. A. Lewis died, Oct. 10.
Clarence E. Rarick appointed acting President, Oct. 12, 1933 and President on Nov. 30, 1934.

1937—First championship (co-champions) in basketball.

1941—August 1, death of C. E. Rarick.
August 15, Lyman Dwight Wooster appointed President.

1947—First Conference Championship in track.

1949—August, L. D. Wooster became President emeritus.
August, Morton C. Cunningham became President.

1952—50th anniversary of the beginnings of the school.
Founders' Day program, March 3.
Opening Day of School, June 23.
50th Anniversary celebration, October 31.

And What of the Future.....

MORTON CHRISTY CUNNINGHAM

Born, Feb. 29, 1904, at Fulton, Mo.
A.B. 1926, Westminster College
M.S. 1937, University of Missouri
D.Ed. 1944, University of Missouri
Instructor and Athletic Coach, King City, Missouri, 1926-28
High School Principal, Sikeston, Missouri, 1928-31
Superintendent of Schools, Desloge, Missouri, 1931-39
Missouri State Department of Education, 1939-41
Instructor in Education Department, Northwest Missouri State College, 1941-44
Chairman of Education Department, Northwest Missouri State College, 1945-49
Dean of the Faculty, Northwest Missouri State College, 1945-49
President, Fort Hays Kansas State College, 1949-

On the eve of the second half century, Fort Hays State re-dedicates itself to the ideals of its founders, its leaders, its students and its friends, and re-affirms its faith in the lasting values which come from the development of the whole individual for a freedom that can be attained only by clear thinking, right living and love of God and fellow man. The influence of Fort Hays State will continue to be a benediction from generation to generation. Those of us who teach on the campus and those who have gone out from these halls of learning to enter various fields of endeavor will ever hold the ambition that Fort Hays Kansas State College will continue to give the highest and noblest service to our country and to the world.